

SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date: March 27, 2006	Hearing Officer: Mr. Frank Warrens
Location: Red Lion Hotel Coos Bay, Oregon	Other Council Members:
Attendance: 146	NMFS: Mr. Frank Lockhart
Testifying: 27	Coast Guard:
	Salmon Technical Team: Mr. Craig Foster
	Council Staff: Mr. Chuck Tracy
Organizations Represented: Port of Brookings Harbor; Klamath Zone Coalition; Oregon Lamprey Society; Oregon Trollers Association; Pacific Coast Federation of Fisheries Associations; Brookings Chamber of Commerce; South Coast Fishermen; Northwest Steelheaders; Oregon Salmon Commission	

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 27 people testifying:

- 10 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 5 commented primarily on the recreational fishery.
- 6 commented primarily on both recreational and commercial fisheries, or other economic aspects of the fisheries.
- 8 commented on issues associated with Klamath River water management issues.
- 7 commented on salmon predation issues.

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Warrens gave a brief overview of the meeting process and objectives of the fisheries. Mr. Foster provided a summary of the recreational and commercial options.

Commercial Troll Comments

Most of those testifying supported Option I. Two people said they could live with Option II but preferred Option I. One person supported Option III with a disaster relief declaration. One person proposed an alternative to Option II having the same Klamath River fall Chinook impacts but with a different season structure.

Recreational Comments

All of those testifying supported Option I.

Other Comments

Most people supported implementing emergency regulations to allow fisheries to maintain the economic viability of coastal communities. Almost all of those testifying expressed frustration with the water management situation in the Klamath Basin, and requested the Federal agencies to address hydropower and habitat issues. Several people requested removal of sea lions at the mouth of the Klamath River.

Written Statements (Attached)

Bill and Sharon Blodgett
Anne Connelly
Mill Casino, Coos Bay, Oregon
Joe and Tricia Benetti
Paul Merz

PFMC
03/30/06

Subj: **Outfitter Guide Service, Lodging & Wild salmon B.B.Q**
Date: 3/23/06 2:40:56 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
From: umpqua@centurytel.net
To: coosbayangel@aol.com

Hello Helen, I own and operate a Private Guest house (www.northumpquariverguesthouse.com) and two Whitewater Rafting guide services (www.nuorrafting.com) & (www.umpquarivers.com) . Our companies offer Rafting, Lodging and B.B.Q trips, we often get request for wild Salmon to be served on overnight camping trips. I buy my Wild Salmon from Nickabob,s meat & fish in Roseburg (672-3474). I don't think that when people come to vacation in the Great Northwest they should have to eat farm raised Salmon. Please feel free to include us as a company that depends on Local caught Wild Fish for the Tourism season each year.

Bill & Sharon Blodgett
North Umpqua Outfitters
Swiftwater Park Guest House
Oregon Ridge & River Excursions
1-541-496-3333

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 3/23/06 3:42:40 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
From: cmuseum@verizon.net
To: coosbayangel@aol.com

Dear Helen,

We at the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum don't sell fish, but we are certainly aware of how much value tourists place on it. People driving in from the north often make our museum their first stop, and their most common questions are "what should I see?," "where are the motels?," and "where can I get a good fish dinner?" Even when they have no idea of the area's many scenic attractions, they know they can find good seafood here.

Anne Donnelly
Executive Director
Coos Historical and Maritime Museum

March 24, 2006

The Mill Casino prides itself in serving the freshest, local and wild Salmon available. We truly believe that when guests either local or visiting come to The Mill Casino here on the Southern Oregon Coast that they deserve the freshest fish that we can get. The Mill Casino supports our local fisherman.

Respectfully Yours,

Larry Close

General Manager

Matt Kincade

Facilitator Sous Chef

Robin Woodlief
Senior Buyer

Chris Foltz
Executive Sous Chef

Subj: **hearing at Red Lion**
Date: 3/24/06 2:39:40 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
From: joe@benettis.com
To: coosbayangel@aol.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you not to curtail the fishing season. To do so would hurt many local businesses; particularly restaurants I've owned my restaurant for 27 years and besides my local clientele I get many tourists stopping in and a large majority of them ask for local fresh seafood; because that's what Oregon is known for. To have that taken away would drive away tourists and in already struggling economy, none of us can afford to lose any business.

Benetti's Italian Restaurant

Joe & Tricia Benetti

PAUL MERZ
POB 5630
Charleston, Oregon 97420
541-888-4425

MARCH 27, 2006

PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Klamath River Chinook Mortality:

Given the information available to me, it appears that a large percentage of the Klamath River juvenile and adult Chinook salmon mortality caused by the *C. shasta* and *P. minibicornis* parasites might be avoided by instituting some changes in hatchery management practices, and careful water flow and temperature management.

I submit the following questions and suggestions, and request that they be given consideration by the Council and the scientific teams involved in the management of the Klamath River Chinook resource.

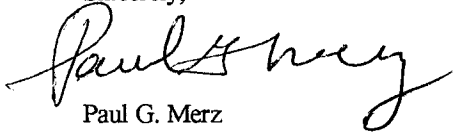
1. Is it possible that the on site release of the entire Irongate hatchery production and the subsequent en-mass adult returns to the hatchery are perpetuating the life cycles of the *C. shasta* and *P. minibicornis* parasites and creating abnormally high concentrations of both myxozoans in the main stem reach adjacent to and immediately downstream of the hatchery, leading to high juvenile and adult mortality rates? Is it possible to inoculate hatchery juveniles against the diseases caused by *C. shasta* and *P. minibicornis*? If so, then a gradual movement of some portion of the hatchery production to off site release and the inoculation of all hatchery production may be beneficial.
2. Remote acclimation and release may result in an increased survival rate for both juvenile and adult Chinook. Trucking a portion of the hatchery production to down river net pen or impoundment type acclimation facilities managed by Tribal experts, could disrupt the *C. shasta* and *P. minibicornis* life cycles. Adult returns to these acclimation sites would provide a terminal fishery in the lower river so that Tribal and Sport fisheries could target hatchery produced fish and decrease the in river impacts on the naturally occurring spawners. A 20% decrease per year for 4 years, or 25% decrease for 3 years, would leave 20% or 25% of the hatchery production for on site hatchery releases to maintain a continued hatchery return for brood stock. (Hatchery managers need to determine actual numbers).
3. We know that acclimation sites work. Coos River STEP and Coquille River STEP have been using net pen and impoundment type acclimation sites in both river systems for years to acclimate Coho, Chinook, and Steelhead to provide directed terminal fisheries, and reduce hatchery influence and in river harvest on our naturally occurring runs. Some of these sites are also used as hatchery brood collection sites to help maintain genetic diversity in our hatchery programs. There is a net pen acclimation project on Young's bay near Astoria that has been very successful for about 15 years. Cal Fish and Game operates net pen facilities on the lower Sacramento system to provide terminal fisheries and boost juvenile hatchery Chinook survival rates. Balance the costs of trucking and acclimation site construction and maintenance against the possible gains to ocean fisheries and the coastal economies. Tribal ownership and management of acclimation sites should add to the cost effectiveness of this proposed project.
4. Acclimation sites need access for ease of installation, removal, feeding, and security. Sites should be in tributaries near the main stem to initiate area specific imprinting for a targeted fishery on returns. Sites should be tested for the presence of *C. shasta*, *P. minibicornis*, and *Manayunkia speciosa*, the polychaete worm that supports *C. shasta* and *P. minibicornis* in the river.

5. Would it be beneficial to have some closely monitored water temperature and flow management in the spring when juvenile Chinook are migrating downriver? Increased flows that mimic spring flood conditions would scour the system, decreasing the population of the polychaetes, and at the same time speed the downriver smolt migration and dilute concentrations of C. shasta and P. minibicornis.

6. I understand that during late summer and early fall there is a population of around 300 California sea lions that takes up residence on the rocks near the mouth of the Klamath River. If you very conservatively say that each lion will only eat one salmon per day from August 1 through October 15, then you could safely say that there are about 22,500 adult fish being removed from the population that should be part of the spawning escapement or part of the in river harvest. Can these animals be harassed to discourage their predation? It is done every year at Ballard locks in Seattle and the fish ladders at Bonneville Dam. Why not here?

Your response to these questions, and an opinion as to the practicality of these suggestions would be greatly appreciated. My livelihood depends to a huge extent on the production of healthy Chinook runs on the Klamath River system.

Sincerely;

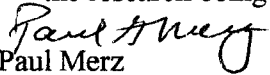


Paul G. Merz
F/V Joanne
F/V Greyling

CC: Klamath Council
Jerri Bartholomew
Peter Defazio
Ron Wyden
Ted Kulongoski

Testimony March 27 2006

1. Enforce the four spread law. If it's on the books then use it. Some out of area vessels are ignoring this requirement.
2. Use hold inspections as an enforcement tool anytime there is a closure longer than one week duration. There were a lot of fish delivered the first week of September by vessels that traveled from out of state. If these vessels are bringing fish from the KMZ and delivering them as fish caught legally and locally then we are probably being charged with Klamath impacts that didn't occur here. OSP seemed willing to take on the inspections.
3. If a closure line is necessary at cape Arago, then move it to Bandon. The beach area south of Arago to Bandon can be very productive at times and log book information coupled with tag data show a very small Klamath impact. If kept inside of three miles or 40 fathoms this could probably be extended to Humbug.
4. We need bubble fisheries in state's waters to access the healthy stocks of local fish. If you're concerned about Klamath impacts, fish it by lottery. Keep it small until you can collect enough data to show what the impacts are. Require 100% of landings be checked for tags.
5. Setting the opening date and then changing it creates financial burden on fishermen. Bills are coming due now for money spent in January and February to prepare for a March 15 opener. We should have had a couple of deliveries in by now and we still don't know if we are even going to have a season. Step up the decision process.
6. Structured fisheries are a plus in times of low abundance of weak stocks. Weekly landing limits and/or time management (week on week off) will spread impacts, slow down the derby type openers, spread landings through a longer season and maintain stronger markets. This is extremely important during September and October fisheries to avoid a large credit card debt.
7. Need to hire people to harass the 300 or so sea lions that take up residence at the mouth of the Klamath River every fall/early winter. One salmon per day per lion from August 1 through October 15 adds up to 22,500 fish that should be part of the spawning escapement or in river harvest.
8. Do whatever the council is able to do to re-authorize the Klamath act and continue the research being done in the river on the diseases that are limiting production.


Paul Merz F/V JOANNE F/V GREYLING
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